

ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD, LASALLE FREIGHT DEPOT  
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
Canal Street East of Creve Coeur Street  
LaSalle  
LaSalle County  
Illinois

HAER  
ILL  
50-LASAL  
HAER No. IL-74 7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD, LASALLE FREIGHT DEPOT  
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor

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HAER No. IL-74

Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
Canal Street east of Creve Coeur Street  
LaSalle, LaSalle County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.324420 N.4576980  
Quad: LaSalle

Date of Construction: ca. 1896

Builder: Rock Island Railroad

Present Status: Abandoned

Significance: The LaSalle Freight Depot is one of the oldest preserved freight depots on the old Rock Island Railroad line. Several of the original, distinctive features remain intact.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1985.

The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, originally chartered in 1847 as the Rock Island & LaSalle Railroad, was completed through LaSalle in 1854. Additional railroad lines were quickly added. By 1855 the city was also served by the Illinois Central Railroad. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, extended though LaSalle in the 1870s, paralleled the path of the Rock Island Railroad. Warehousing districts developed on the east side of town along the Illinois Central line and in south LaSalle along the Rock Island line and the I & M Canal.

Built around 1896, the Rock Island LaSalle Freight Depot is one of the oldest remaining freight depots on the Rock Island & Pacific Railroad line in the Heritage Corridor. The building retains many of its original features, notably the distinctive corbeled brick cornice, as well as the segmental arches over the door and window openings. The depot is a one-and-one-half-story brick building measuring approximately 50' x 20'. The building has an ashlar limestone foundation, common-bond brick walls and brick pilasters, an interior post-and-beam frame, and a medium-pitched gable roof covered with asphaltic shingles. Most of the windows have been altered with the exception of four windows along the north facade. These original windows are six-over-six-light, wood, double-hung, sash windows, spanned by brick segmental arches. The windows have limestone sills. Sliding wood doors are located at the north and south facades; a concrete loading dock (probably built in the early-twentieth century) extends along the west facade. The south facade faces the Rock Island tracks, and a deteriorated wooden platform extends along this side of the building. The building is no longer used as a freight depot.

#### SOURCES:

Sanborn Map Co., LaSalle, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1892, 1898, 1906, 1911, 1926).

Warner & Beers, Atlas of LaSalle County and the State of Illinois (New York: Warner & Beers, 1876): 74.

Dwight L. Agnew, "Beginning of the Rock Island Lines," Illinois State Historical Society Journal, v. 46 (1953): 407-24.

LaSalle Centennial Committee, LaSalle, Illinois: An Historical Sketch (LaSalle, IL: n.p., 1952), 35-7.